CASTLEMAINE NATURALIST

MARCH 1981

55

Places to see in Castlemaine

Areas of interest in the township

(See map on page 2)

1. Some large trees can be seen in Goldsmith Crescent. Sometimes, during the gold rush, prisoners were chained to these. Grey Box and Yellow box grow here

"Where the town of Castlemaine now stands was a lovely spot in those days, with some grand old gums growing" - A.C. Yandell, 1852.

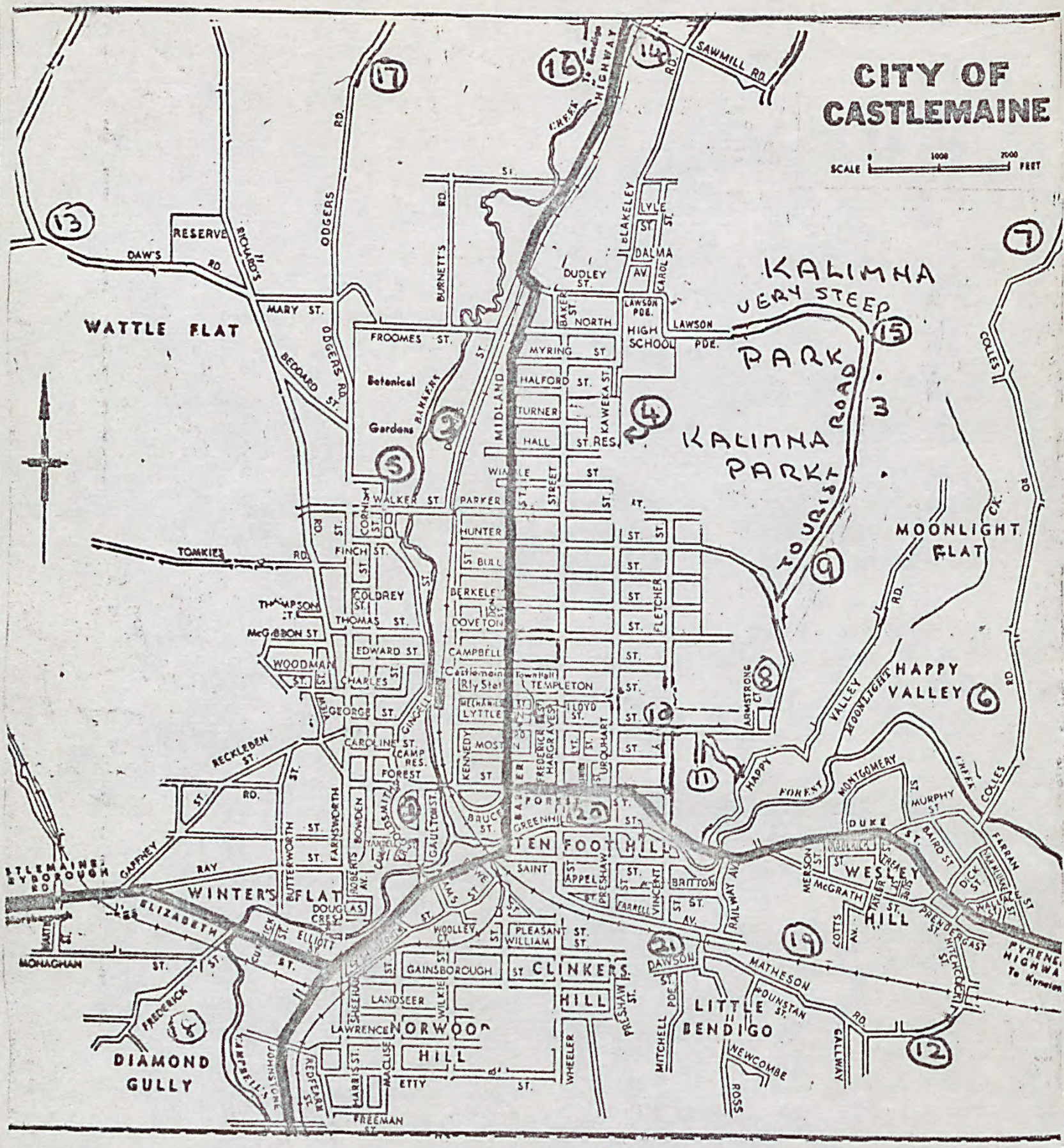
In nearby Camp Crescent the butts of some even larger trees can be seen.

2. The Botanic Gardens

" The Castlemaine Botanic Gardens are well worth a visit. They are quite extensive and convey the feeling of tranquillity which often comes from quiet waters, green lawns and shade on a hot day.

Baron Von Mueller was the man who gave impetus to its construction and early development. It was developed on or near a creek bed which flows through Castlemaine. After the extraction of gold, levelling was quite a job for those days, and the bridge and damming of the waters and planning for the future with a proper drainage scheme must have been quite a feat.

Baron Von Mueller raised many seeds from all parts of the world at Melbourne, some of which were planted in these gardens. His recognition of the Australian Native Plant also placed importance on the design and kind of tree planted in the gardens. There is a beautiful Chinese Weeping Cypress (Cupressus funebris); it was one of many sent from China for acclimatisation. Of the Australian native plants, there can be seen the Bunya



tree from Southern Queensland, and the Silky Oak (Grevillea robusta). Others such as Kurrajongs and Eucalypts are also prominent.

An exotic plant that grows well is the Catalpa; there is one that is about 50 feet (15 m) high and a garden seat completely surrounds its trunk. In the spring it is covered with large heads

of mauve blossom which is a photographers delight. The flourishing Oaks and Pines were also sent to Castlemaine by Von Mueller during the construction of the gardens.

The lake holds water-fond of various kinds, bird life abounds and they have used Twisted Willow (Salix tortuosa) for holding the banks of the lake. Perhaps one of my favorites will always be the Silver Poplars, the leaves of which look like silver when rustled by a brezze. There is a very lovely specimen of the Ghost Maple (Acer negundo argentia) under which we sat and contemplated the gardens construction "

(From the Northcote Garden Club newsletter, 1979. There are also some fine examples of the rough-barked apples, Angophora intermedia, growing in the gardens)

3. Kalimna Park See later

4. Kaweka Wildflower Reserve See later.

5. Glass House At the entrance to the caravan park.

6. Pennyweight Flat Cemetery This on the left of the road, about 5 metres distant, under a clump of Yellow Box. Many of the graves are raised because of the rocky ground.

7. Colles Road This road continues to the pine plantation and a round trip to Barkers Creek is possible.

   Some fine Yellow-gum forest can be seen shortly after the cemetery. Note that the Coffee-bush (Cassinia arcuata) grows more rapidly than the pine.

8. Kalimna Point This is part of Kalimna Park. The car park in on the tourist road. There is a nature trail and leaflet. There is a mixture of local, exotic and other plants . A visit is recommended.

9. Anticline There is a fine example of an anticline in the cutting, just past the Hunter St turn-off on the Tourist Road.

10. Lyttleton St Anticline The rocks here are of Ordovician age, and were laid down about 500 000 000 years ago.

11. Burke and Wills Monument Robert O'Hara Burke was superintendant of Police in Castlemaine before leading the expidition to the north. A good view can be obtained from here.

12. Waste Area Some years ago this area was completely bare of vegetation after the effects of mining and erosion had caused the loss of all top soil. It is interesting to see how regeneration is taking place.

13. Wattle Flat Forest is an easily accessible patch of bush. It is sometimes also known as the Campbells Creek Forest. At the pony club reserve look for the marker showing the site of the first cricket match.

Two round trips are suggested

- turn left off Dawes Road (near 13 on the map) and return via Richards Road
- continue along Dawes Road until the end of the forest. Then turn left, cross the railway and bear left. You should reach the highway.

14. Sawmill Road Bridge Look for the unconformity, where rocks of Tertiary age (3 million years old) join Ordovician rocks (500 million years).

15 View over Castlemaine District from the Kalimna Tourist Road.

16. Barkers Creek Note the Red Gums.

" The road to Castlemaine I thought the prettiest I have ever walked. The creek meanering along the roadside and the magnificant trees under the shade of which we rested reminded me greatly of places at home." R. Mitchell, 1853.

17. Odgers Road A fine example of an un-made road. What would this district be like if similar vegetation had been kept on all of the roads?

18. Sewerage Ponds Keep to the raised areas; some spots have crusts that are dangerous to walk on. Not for children, but good for bird.

19. Forest Creek (from Greenhill Av) Notice the artificial banks. This is not the original alignment; it is typical of how the creeks in the goldfields areas have been altered.

20 Syncline In the railway cutting a little west of the railway bridge. You can climb down from the bridge with care.

PLACES TO VISIT IN THE CASTLEMAINE DISTRICT

1. Muckleford Creek This follows the edge of the Muckleford Fault; total vertical movement of 1200 metres in 500 million years, or 2.4 metres per million years. The basalt capping has moved 30 metres in about a million years. It is interesting that some houses have been built over the fault line.

2. Goldfields Nursery A native plant nursery; worth a visit just to view the landscaping.

3. Kalimna Reserve

4. To Muckleford Forest There are many possible routes e.g. drive along the Maldon Road and turn left or right at one of the turn offs. Most of the roads in the forest lead out again. Some was burned late in 1980.

5 Pony Club reserve Look for the Cricket Marker.

6. Wattle Flat (Campbells Creek) Forest Grevillea dryophylla can be found at 6a.

7. Slate Quarries Turn right off the highway at Barkers Creek, under the first railway bridge. These have been used as an art gallery during the Castlemaine Festival.

8. Granite/Sedimentary join Rocks of both types can be seen on the surface (or in the cutting at Expedition Pass). The hot granite baked the sedimentary rock; this hardened rock has resisted erosion.

9. Expedition Pass Named by Major Mitchell. Look for the marker. The reservoir was originally used for mining and domestic purposes. A flume can be seen at the far end of the wall; this pipe was used to carry water to a water race.

10. Metamorphic aureole This is the ridge or baked, erosion resistant rock

11. Railway Tunnel The highway crosses the railway here. The rock here is part of the metamorphic aureole.

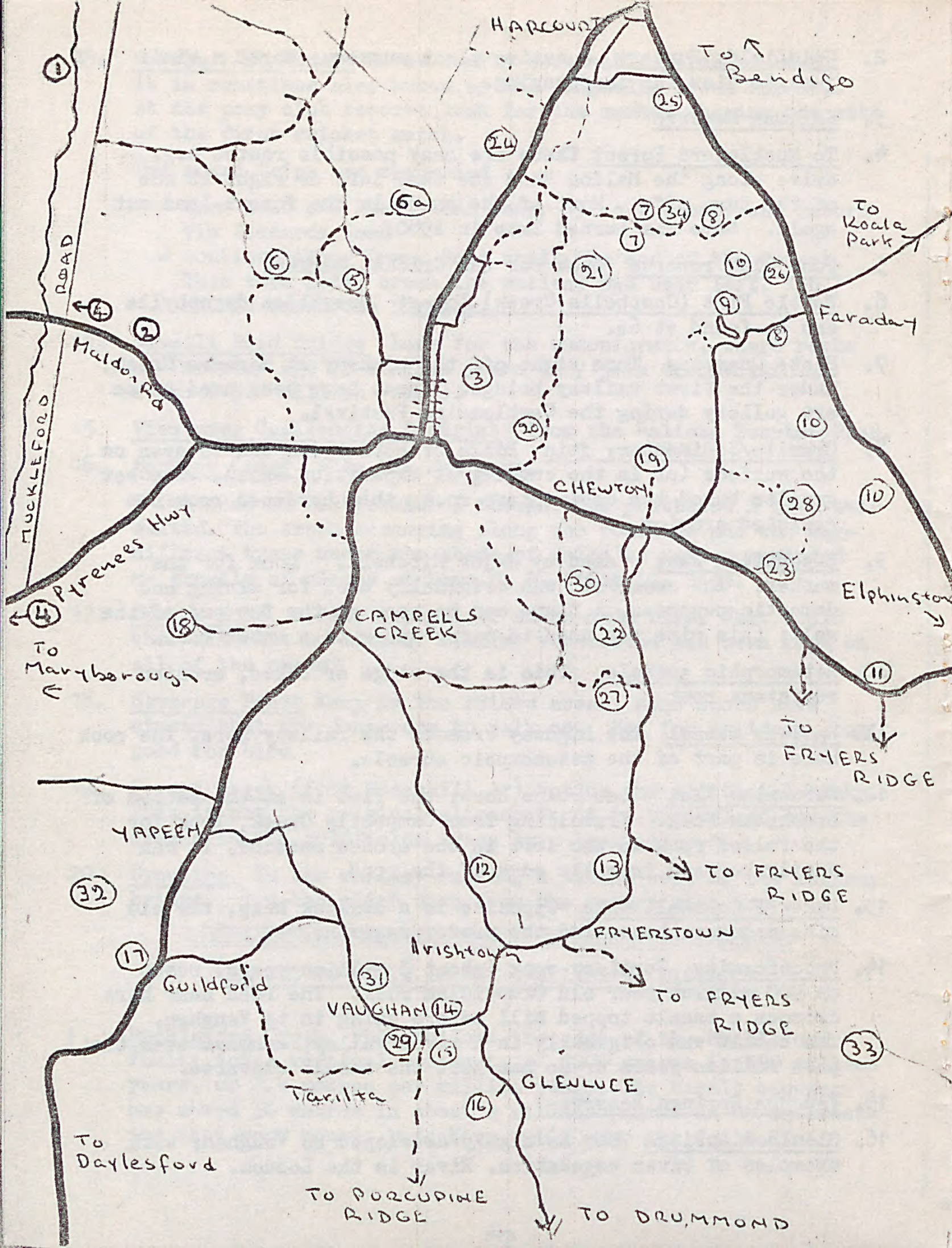
12. Murdering Flat Some ruins here; the flat is at the bottom of Breakneck Hill. Travelling from Campbells Creek, look for the folded rock on the left in the eroded section. It can easily be seen from the edge of the road.

13. Duke of Cornwall Mine Opposite is a mullock heap, the old mine managers house and the powder magazine.

14. Unconformity Tertiary rock (about 3 million years) rests on 500 million year old Ordovician rock. The road near here crosses a basalt topped hill before going in to Vaughan. The basalt was originally in a river valley; erosion over the past million years or so has left the basalt elevated.

15. Vaughan Springs Reserve

16. Glenluce Springs Not as highly developed as Vaughan; with examples of river vegetation. River is the Loddon.


HARCOURT
To Bendigo
To Koala Park
Faraday
Muckleford Road
Maldon Rd
Pyrenees Hwy
CHEWTON
CAMPBELLS CREEK
To Maryborough
Elphinstone
TO FRYERS RIDGE
YAPEEM
Guildford
VAUGHAN
Tarilta
GLENLUCE
FRYERSTOWN
Irishtown
To Daylesford
TO PORCUPINE RIDGE
TO DRUMMOND

17 The Big Tree Look for the big red-gum in the township. It is in line with possible re-alignment of the highway. The tree has a plaque .

18 Mt Consultation Follow the road past the Cemetery. It is an extinct volcano. Note the Yellow Gum (Eucalyptus leucoxylon) and typical absence of shrubs etc in such forests.

19. Garfield Wheel Only the foundations remain; it used water to provide energy for mining purposes.

20. Pennyweight Flat cemetery, about 50 m from the road.

21. Pine Forest A number of roads lead into the forest.

22. Wattle Gully Mine

23. Chewton Cemetery with some fine trees

24,25,26 Apples and pears Three places are

24 - Norris; first stall on left in Barkers Creek
25 - Deumers; on Calder Highway near Blackjack Road
26 - Big Red Apple; on Calder Highway near Faraday.

27. The Monk The mountain south of Chewton.

28. Chewton Bushland Settlement The bush here is generally privately owned. Note the stone houses built here.

29. Vaughan The road over the Loddon leads to Porcupine Ridge

30. Chewton Bush Turn up Eureka Street

31. Vaughan Cemetery

32. Guildford Plateau It is one of a number of basalt plateaux. These too were originally along the river valleys, but are now elevated because of erosion. In many places, evidence of mining can be seen; the aim being to reach the old river beds.

33 Fryers Ridge Fine wildflower area during spring. Plants common further south (e.g. Epacris impressa) are to be found here

AND - if all this is not enough, you may like to consider the following :-

(a) The Castlemaine Market: rescued from a state of near - ruin and restored by the National Trust, this interesting old building in the heart of Castlemaine now houses a museum which shows life on the goldfields and the development of the town.

(b) The Castlemaine Art Gallery : One of Victoria's leading provincial galleries, well worth a visit.

(c) Maldon :browse through the quaint and interesting shops, take time off for tea at one of the delightful tea rooms.

KAWEKA

KAWEKA ..... its origin

The land in the block was originally taken up by Miners Right by Mr G. Leviny. He planted the garden for the house (just to the north of the sanctuary) but built his home instead at the corner of Urquart and Hunter Streets. He sold the property to Mr David Thompson (of the Foundry). Mrs Thompson named the property Kaweka, believed to be a Maori word meaning the "House on the Hill". The house was built around the '80 s.

In 1914 the property was bought by Mr F.S. Newell, a solicitor. When he moved to Melbourne the property was sold piecemeal and the blocks along Kaweka Street were sold at this time. The southern part of the block was bought by Mr Don Macrae who presented it to the town to be kept as a wildflower reserve in the memory of his mother who had been an enthusiastic grower and preserver of native plants.

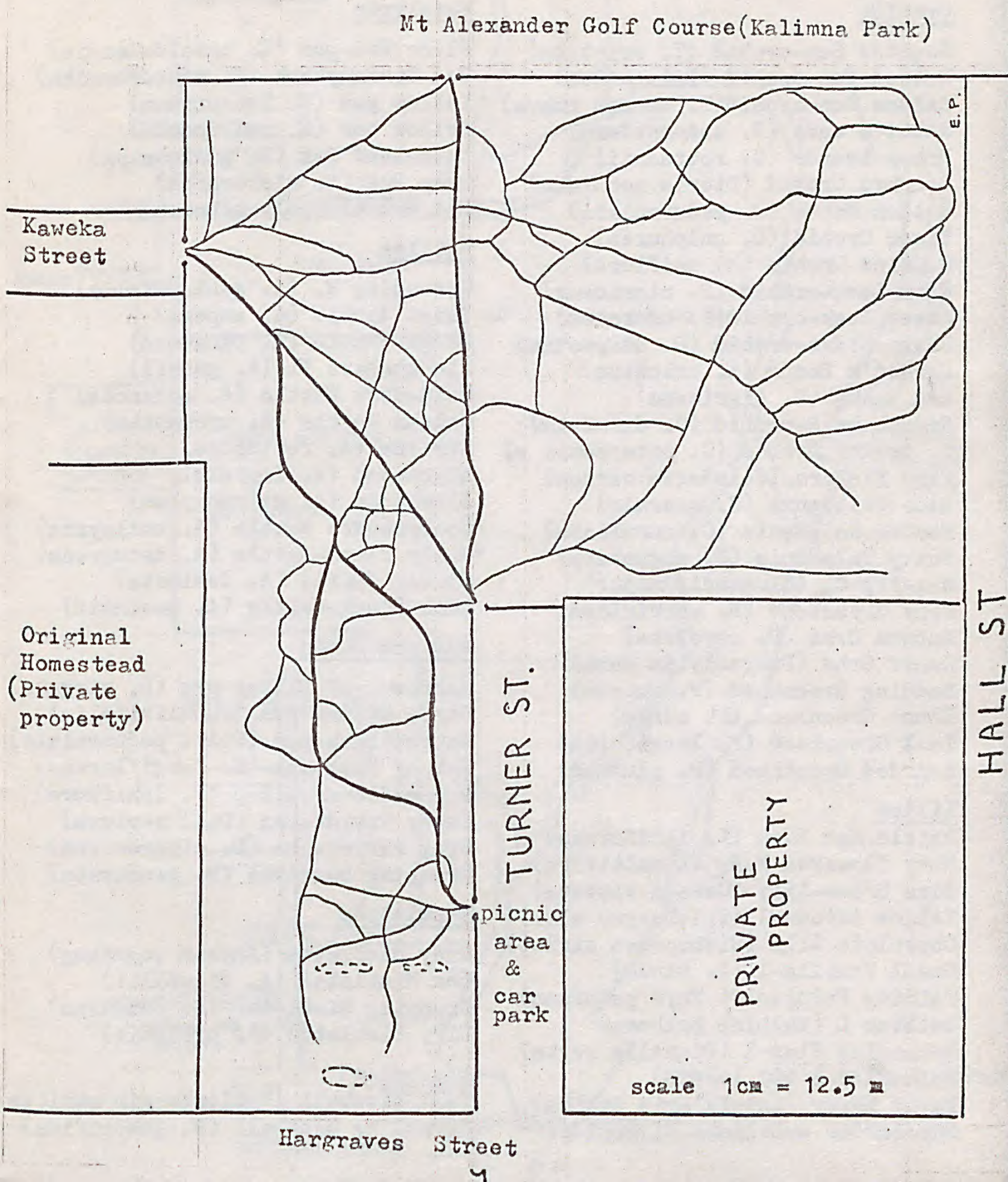
For some years the reserve was under the care of the Rotary Club. In 1966 a public meeting was called and a Committee of Management was formed. The committee gets money for upkeep and improvements from government and council grants and from donations, and much of the work is done by voluntary labour.

The southern section is mostly natural vegetation but the northern part has been planted with a variety of local and other native plants. These, with the natural vegetation gives a diverse flora to the reserve, and even regular visitors often find something new. The southern part is watered during dry weather, but the shallow soil and tree cover makes conditions very hard during summer.

There is a labelling program under way and most of the established plants are labelled somewhere in the sanctuary.

(Source of early information: Letter (undated) from L. Newell to Miss D. Bond)

KAWEKA WILDFLOWER SANCTUARY



A Kalimna Plant List

Over 300 species of plant have been recorded for Kalimna. This is an abbreviated list. Some names have been abbreviated also, to fit space.

Orchids

Scented Sun-orchid (T. aristata)
Dotted Sun-orchid (T.ixioides)
Salmon Sun-orchid(T. Carnea rubra)
Rabbits ears (T. antennifera)
Brown beards (C. robtsonii)
Leopard Orchid (Diuris maculata)
Golden Moths (D. pedunculata)
Tiger Orchid (D. sulphurea)
C.Onion Orchid (M. uniflora)
Dark Leek-orchid (P. nigricans)
Sweet Leek-orchid(P. odoratum)
Sharp Midge-orchid (P. despectns)
Parson's Bands (E. culcatus)
Red Beaks (L. nigricans)
Greencomb S-orchid (C. dilatata)
C. Spider Orchid (C. patersonii v)
Pink Fingers (Caladenia carnea)
Blue Caladenia (C. caerula)
Hooded Caladenia (C. cucullata)
Musky Caladenia (C. angustata)
Wax-lip O. (Glossodia major)
Tiny Greenhood (P. parviflora)
Autumn Grhd (P. revoluta)
Dwarf Grhd (Pterostylis nana)
Nodding Greenhood (P. nutans)
Blunt Greenhood (P. curta)
Tall Greenhood (P. longifolia)
Bearded Greenhood (P. plumosa)

Lilies

Wattle Mat Rush (L. filiformis)
Many flowered M.R. (L multiflra)
Blue Grass-lily (Caesia vittata)
Yellow Autumn-l (Trichoryne eltr)
Chocolate Lily (Dichopogon strict)
Small Vanilla-l (A. minus)
Twining Fringe-l (Thys paterson)
Bulbine L (Bulbine bulbosa)
Spreading Flax-l (Dianella revta)
Pale Flax-l (D. laevis)
Early Nancy (Anguillaria dioica)
Burchardia umbellata-Milkmaids.

Eucalypts

River Red-gum (E. camaldulensis)
Red Stringybark (E. macrorhyncha)
Yellow gum (E. leucoxylon)
Yellow box (E. melliodora)
Long-leaf Box (E. goniocalyx)
Grey Box (E. microcarpa)
Red Box (E. polyanthemos)

Wattles

Spreading W. (A. genistifolia)
Rough Wattle (A. aspera)
Hedge Wattle (A. paradoxa)
Ploughshare W. (A. gunnii)
Gold-dust Wattle (A. acinacea)
Golden Wattle (A. pycnantha)
Wirilda (A. retinodes)
Lightwood (A. implexa)
Blackwood (A. melanoxylon)
*Cootamundra Wattle (A. baileyana)
*Early Black-Wattle (A. decurrens)
Silver Wattle (A. dealbata)
Late Black-wattle (A. mearnsii)

Egg and Bacon

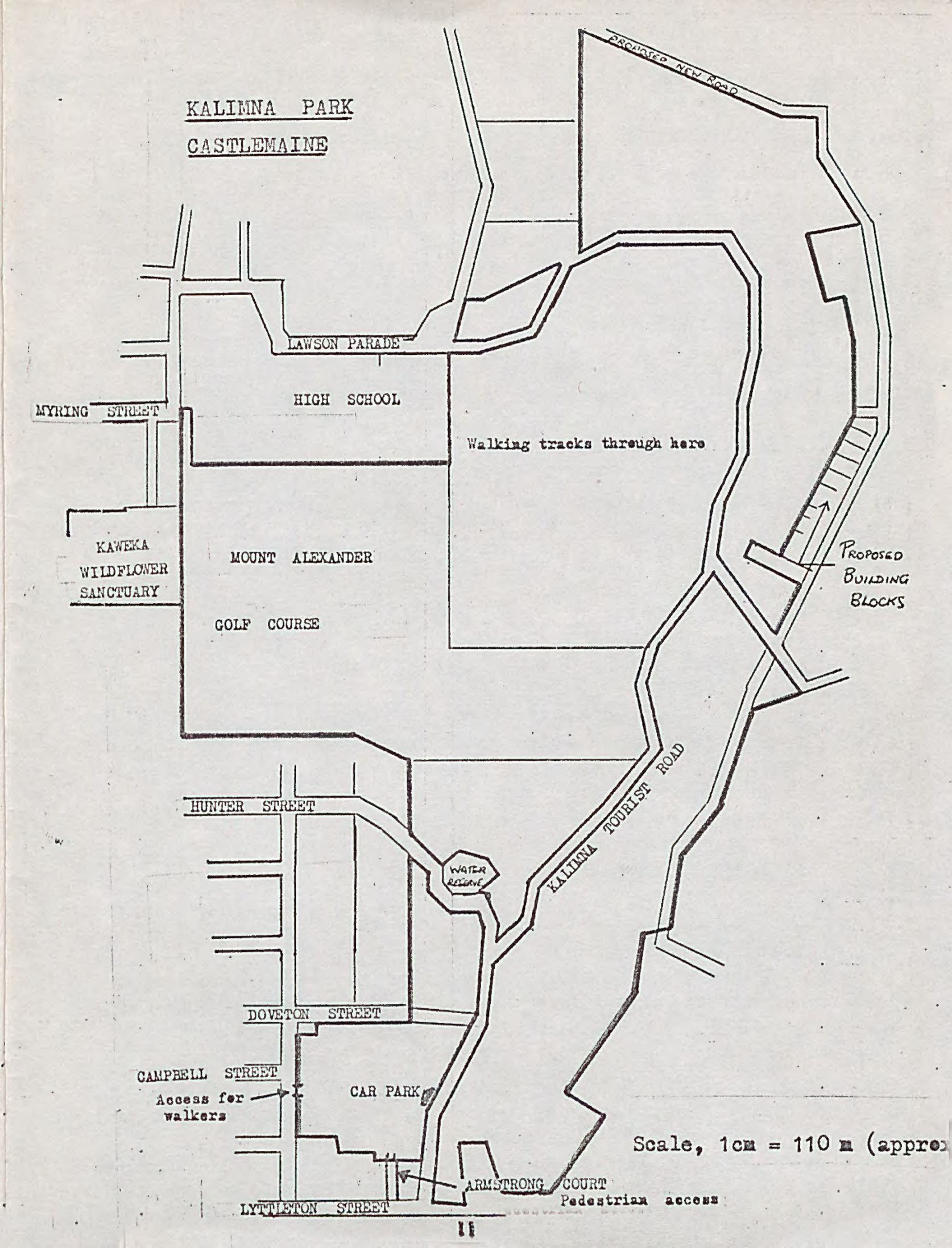
Narrow-leaf Bitter-pea (D. virgata)
Gorse Bitter-pea (D. ulicifolia)
Matted Bush-pea (Pult. pedunculata)
Twiggy Bush-pea (P. largiflorens)
Loose-flowered B-p (P. laxiflora)
Showy Parrot-pea (Dill sericea)
Grey Parrot-pea (D. cinerescens)
Creeping bossiaea (B. prostrata)

Mistletoes

Grey Mistletoe (Amyema quandang)
Box Mistletoe (A. miquellii)
Drooping Mistletoe (A. pendulum)
Wiry Mistletoe (A. preissii)

Bluebells

Tall bluebell (Wahlenbergia stricta)
Sprawling bluebell (W. quadrifida)


KALIMNA PARK
CASTLEMAINE
PROPOSED NEW ROAD
LAWSON PARADE
HIGH SCHOOL
MYRING STREET
Walking tracks through here
KAWEKA
WILDFLOWER
SANCTUARY
MOUNT ALEXANDER
GOLF COURSE
PROPOSED
BUILDING
BLOCKS
HUNTER STREET
WATER
RESERVE
KALIMNA TOURIST ROAD
DOVETON STREET
CAMPBELL STREET
Access for
walkers
CAR PARK
ARMSTRONG COURT
Pedestrian access
LYTTLETON STREET
Scale, 1cm = 110 m (appro

CASTLEMAINE FIELD NATURALISTS - CLUB CALENDAR

April 10 : Meeting, Speaker - Mr Kevin Waring of the Forests Commission
Subject: Wood chipping.

Saturday, April 11. Outing: Broken Bridge, Laanecoorie

Friday, May 8. Members & visitors night.

Saturday, May 9. Muckleford Forest. To examine the area which was burnt during the recent bushfires.

Friday, June 12. To be arranged.

Friday, July 10. Film night.

Friday, August 14. Members & visitors night.

Friday, September 11. Speaker, Mr Ross McDonald.
Subject: Fungi.

Club Office Bearers 1981

At the committee meeting following the annual meeting, the following positions were filled

Treasurer : Mr F. Meyer , with Mr S. Bruton to assist.
Librarian: Mr F. Blake
Newspaper correspondent
& Publicity : Mrs Rita Mills
Club Records Custodian: Mr M. Winterbottom
Meeting Notices: Miss M Mills
Newsletter : Mr G. Broadway

Mr Lloyd Bransgrove who had acted as Treasurer of the club since its inception in 1976 retired at the recent annual meeting. The club wishes to express its gratitude to Lloyd for his diligence in maintaining the club finance during this period.

Brief History of the Club.

The Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club came into being in March 1976 following the calling of a public meeting by Mr Ray Bradfield who subsequently was elected as the inaugural president. Mrs R. Mills was the first secretary and Mr L. Bransgrove the first treasurer. At the first committee meeting, Mr Perkins was appointed as Editor and the first edition of the newsletter appeared in April 1976.

It is interesting to note that one of the articles in the first edition referred to the proposed investigation of the North Central Area by the Land Conservation Council. Now, just 5 years later, the recommendations of that body have just been released.

Visitors are cordially invited to attend club meetings and outings.
Meetings : Second Friday of the month at the Education Centre.
Outings : Usually on the Saturday following the second Friday, as announced.